

What is claimed is:

1. An image processing device comprising:
  - a processing unit for processing image data;
  - a judging unit for judging whether operating status of  
5 said processing unit satisfies a predetermined compression process execution condition or not; and
  - a compression unit for compressing image data processed by said processing unit when said judging unit judges that operating status of said processing unit satisfies said  
10 compression process execution condition.
2. An image processing device described in claim 1 wherein  
said judging unit judges that operating status of said processing unit satisfies a predetermined compression process execution condition when no processing is being executed by  
15 said processing unit, or when executing the compression process by means of said compression unit simultaneously while a portion of the process is being executed by means of said processing unit does not meaningfully reduce the processing speed by said processing unit.
- 20 3. Image processing device described in claim 1 further comprising:
  - a memory unit for storing image data compressed by said compression unit;
  - and an expansion unit for expanding image data stored

in said memory unit when reprocessing image data by means of said processing unit; wherein

    said processing unit reprocesses the image data expanded by said expansion unit.

5       4. An image processing device described in claim 1 wherein said processing unit comprises:

    a spooling unit for spooling image data;

    a rasterizing unit for rasterizing image data spooled by said spooling unit;

10      and an image forming unit for image-forming the image data rasterized by said rasterizing unit.

5       5. An image processing device described in claim 1 wherein said processing unit comprises:

    a spooling unit for spooling image data;

15      a rasterizing unit for rasterizing image data spooled by said spooling unit;

    and a transmitting unit for transmitting the image data rasterized by said rasterizing unit.

6. An image processing method comprising:

20      a processing step of processing image data;

    a judging step of judging whether operating status of said processing step satisfies a predetermined compression process execution condition or not; and

    a compression step of compressing image data processed

by said processing step when said judging steps judges that operating status of said processing step satisfies said compression process execution condition.

7. An image processing method described in claim 6 wherein  
5        said judging step judges that operating status of said processing step satisfies a predetermined compression process execution condition when no processing is being executed by said processing step, or when executing the compression process by means of said compression step simultaneously while  
10      a portion of the process is being executed by means of said processing step does not meaningfully reduces the processing speed by said processing step.

8. Image processing method described in claim 6 further comprising:

15      a memory step of storing image data compressed by said compression step;

and an expansion step of expanding image data stored in said memory step when reprocessing image data by means of said processing step; wherein

20      said processing step reprocesses image data expanded by said expansion step.

9. An image processing method described in claim 6 wherein said processing step comprises:

  a spooling step of spooling image data;

a rasterizing step of rasterizing image data spooled by said spooling step; and

an image forming step of image-forming the image data rasterized by said rasterizing step.

5 10. An image processing method described in claim 6 wherein said processing step comprises:

a spooling step of spooling image data;

a rasterizing step of rasterizing image data spooled by said spooling step; and

10 a transmitting step of transmitting the image data rasterized by said rasterizing step.

11. An image processing program for causing an image processing device to execute:

a processing step of processing image data;

15 a judging step of judging whether operating status of said processing step satisfies a predetermined compression process execution condition or not; and

a compression step of compressing image data processed by said processing step when said judging steps judges that 20 operating status of said processing step satisfies said compression process execution condition.

12. An image processing program described in claim 11 wherein

said judging step judges that operating status of said

processing step satisfies a predetermined compression process execution condition when no processing is being executed by said processing step, or when executing the compression process by means of said compression step simultaneously while 5 a portion of the process is being executed by means of said processing step does not meaningfully reduces the processing speed by said processing step.

13. Image processing program described in claim 11 further causing an image processing device to execute:

10 a memory step of storing image data compressed by said compression step;

and an expansion step of expanding image data stored in said memory step when reprocessing image data by means of said processing step; wherein

15 said processing step reprocesses image data expanded by said expansion step.

14. An image processing program described in claim 11 wherein said processing step comprises:

a spooling step of spooling image data;

20 a rasterizing step of rasterizing image data spooled by said spooling step; and

an image forming step of image-forming the image data rasterized by said rasterizing step.

15. An image processing program described in claim 11

wherein said processing step comprises:

    a spooling step of spooling image data;

    a rasterizing step of rasterizing image data spooled  
by said spooling step; and

5       a transmitting step of transmitting the image data  
rasterized by said rasterizing step.

16. A computer readable recording medium on which the  
image processing program as described in claim 11 is recorded.